

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 were originally presented for examination. Claims 22-39 have been canceled. Claims 1-21 are pending and are rejected. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-21 are rejected as being unpatentable over Miyake et al. in view of Grenon et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

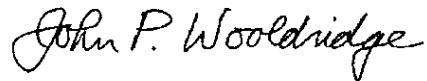
Miyake et al. teaches changing film thickness of a reflective multilayer by locally heating the film with an energy beam. There is no teaching of using such method to mitigate a defect. Grenon et al. is directed to a transmissive mask. As discussed in the Declaration filed October 2, 2003, the repair methods of Grenon et al. will not work on a reflective mask. Therefore the rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusions

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance based on claims 1-21 in view of the amendments thereto and the foregoing comments.

If any impediments remain to prompt allowance of the case, please contact the undersigned at 808-875-0012.

Respectfully submitted,



John P. Wooldridge
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 38,725

Dated: June 11, 2004